

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086673

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T STATE 086673

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK, IN

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN FINANCE MINISTER CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH

1. IN MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH APRIL 25, FINANCE MINISTER MUBASHIR HASAN SAID HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED BY MESSAGE FROM BHUTTO THAT MORNING TO RAISE ARMS PROBLEM. MUBASHIR SAID THAT IN VIEW OF CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, INHIBITIONS ON U.S. SUPPLY SHOULD BE LESSENED. IN STACCATO FASHION, MUBASHIR SUGGESTED THAT (1) GROWING MILITARY STRENGTH IN INDIA (WITH CONTINUING SOVIET SUPPLY) AND WEAKENED POLITICAL POSITION OF GOI INCREASED CHANCES OF INDIAN ADVENTURISM; (2) INDIAN AND SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN CONSTITUTED NEW THREAT FOR PAKISTAN; AND (3) U.S. SUPPLY OF ARMS TO ISRAEL, SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT (SIC) RENDERED QUESTION OF SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN LESS CONTROVERSIAL.

2. IN RESPONSE, DEPUTY SECRETARY STATED THAT WE HAVE BOTH POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS IN CONSIDERING QUESTION OF ARMS FOR PAKISTAN. RUSH NOTED CONGRESS IS OPPOSED

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TO PRESENT LEVELS OF BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

HE ASSURED MUBASHIR THAT WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO PAKISTAN'S
OVERALL PROBLEMS AND WILL CONTINUE TO STUDY THIS QUESTION.
KISSINGER

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